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THE CASTLE OF ST. DONAT'S
GLAMORGANSHIRE





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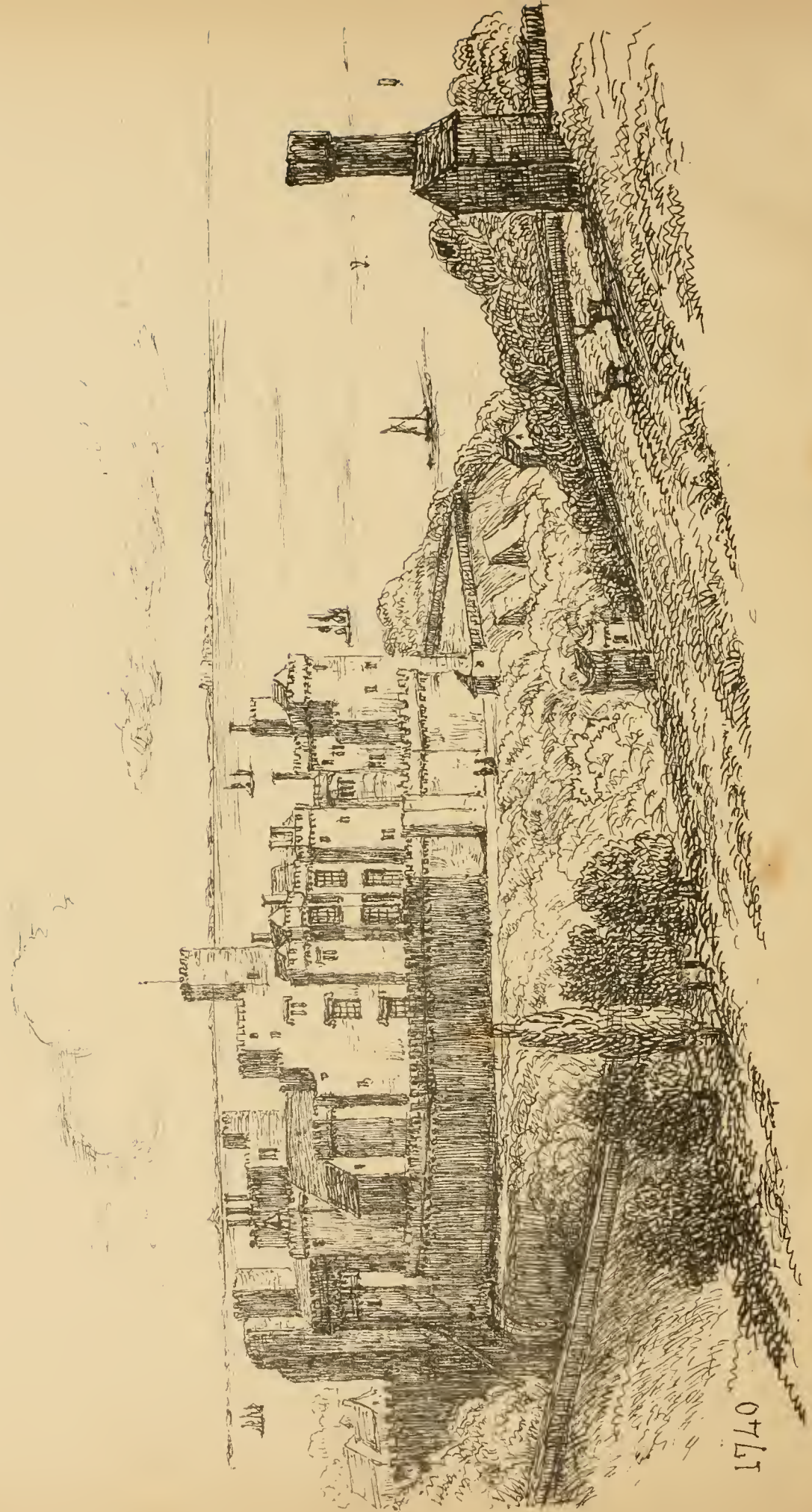
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THIRTEEN VIEWS OF
THE
CASTLE OF ST. DONAT'S,
GLAMORGANSHIRE,
WITH A NOTICE OF
THE STRADLING FAMILY.

Shrewsbury :

ADNITT & NAUNTON, BOOKSELLERS, THE SQUARE.

Cardiff :

LEWIS & WILLIAMS, BOOKSELLERS.

1871.

THE CASTLE OF ST. DONAT'S.



THE Castle of St. Donat's, the principal features of which the accompanying drawings are intended to represent, is a well-known landmark upon the Coast of Glamorgan, and the only ancient Military building in the county which, having been always inhabited, is preserved without material alteration. Donatus, to whom the Parish Church is dedicated, and who has also given name to the Parish of Welsh St. Donat's, by Cowbridge, is a Saint little known to fame, or known only by the reflected reputation won by the Lords of the Castle, of which his Church was in fact the Chapel, and within the sacred precincts of which the bones of many of them are laid. St. Donat's, though named after a Welsh Saint is not, like the adjacent fortress of Dunraven, celebrated in Welsh story. The name does not appear in the *Liber Landavensis*, nor in any of the earlier British traditionary records. Probably its first appearance is as the fief of the intruding family of Le Esterling, or Stradling, whose name points to a Flemish origin, but who are always enumerated among the twelve Norman Paladins between whom Fitzhamon is reputed to have apportioned shares in their common conquest. This opinion, long and generally accepted in Wales,

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does not rest upon documentary evidence, of which indeed there is but little extant, but alone upon the general tradition, which regards Sir William le Esterling as the founder of the family, by his acceptance from Fitzhamon, about 1090, of the Manor of St. Donat's, at the service due from one Knight's fee, held of the Castle of Cardiff.

St. Donat's stands in a part of the country unusually bare of military remains. Dunraven, the Castle of the Butler's, and the nearest stronghold, crowns the headland of that name, about four miles down the Channel. East Orchard, the castellated house of the Berkerolles family, and afterwards inherited by the Stradlings; and Castleton, the strong place of the Nerbers's, stand upon or near the Thaw, about six miles in the opposite direction: while inland about five miles are the ruins of Llanblethian, or St. Quintin's Castle, and those, attached to a modern farmhouse, of Llandough, the Castle of the family of Walsh, and afterwards the property of the Carne's, and from them, by an heiress, of the Mansell's of Margam.

St. Donat's stands upon the left or Eastern bank of a deep ravine in the Lias rock, which opens about a furlong lower down upon the sea in a small sheltered cove. Deep below the Castle, but close under its walls is the Parish Church, with its Stradling aisle and tombs, and its churchyard celebrated for its ancient and very graceful cross, the only unmutilated example in a county in which nearly every churchyard, and the intersection of many cross roads, were so provided.

The Castle, in its present form a work of the 15th Century, with additions of the 16th, is protected on two sides by the steep natural bank, and to the North and North East by an artificial dry moat. The South, or seaward



front is formed by the wall of some of the main buildings, the angle at the South West being a square structure known as Lady Anne's Tower, at the foot of which the moat, if moat there was, has given place to a terrace, below and beyond which a series of platforms, occupied by the garden, descend to a small walled paddock, protected by a breast work from the sea rovers and from the sea itself. Opposite to the Castle, on the right and higher bank of the ravine, stands the celebrated watch tower, a detached work, from the summit of which could be seen Dunster Castle on the opposite coast, and a wide sweep of the Bristol Channel, a view of great importance to the Stradling's, when the English seas were infested with pirates of many nations, and, as they themselves once found to their cost, possessed of considerable audacity.

As there does not exist any history or description or any accurate survey of the Castle, it can only here be stated that it is in plan rather nearer to a square than a circle, about 150 feet in diameter, enclosed towards the ravine by a sort of revetment wall, behind the low parapet of which is a terrace, within which rises the proper wall of the Castle. Where the ditch occurs its scarp is a high embattled wall, its counterscarp a low parapet. The entrance on the North East, or level side, is across a bridge now permanent, through a gateway duly portcullised, into a small court; connected with this outer gatehouse, on its South side, is a good fire place, and other traces of early English work, the oldest of which any remains have been observed, and which probably indicate the period at which the earliest Castle was built.

Traversing the small Court, the way leads through a second gateway, also duly armed, into the main Court of the place, which is wholly surrounded by buildings. On the left is the Hall, with its porch and projecting oriel, and behind it the withdrawing room, kitchen and offices, and at either end a further

suite of rooms. The bottom of the Court is occupied by the great dining room and parlour, the latter having a curious wreath of plaster-washed copper, as a part of the decoration of the ceiling. At the South end of the dining room the main staircase leads to the saloon. On the right side of the Court are other rooms of one line in depth, and also on two floors. Between the hall and the gateway are some buildings, apparently an addition, containing Lady Stradling's apartments. In one of these has very recently been discovered a complete series of wall paintings of the arms, quarterings, and matches of the family. They have been concealed by panelling, and in part by white-wash.

Some of the buildings connected with the offices, and Lady Anne's Tower, have been allowed during the past century to fall into decay, but the greater part of the building has always retained its roof. Since the acquisition of the Castle by Dr. Carne, who claims to be the next representative of the Stradling's, the Castle has been put into repair, and is now inhabited by that gentleman and his family.

SIR WILLIAM STRADLING, the reputed Founder, is said to have come from the shores of the Baltic, and with St. Donat's to have held Rogerston and Tregwillim in Gwent. Eighth in descent is SIR PETER, who emerges first out of the haze of County Genealogy, and who married, in the reign of Edward I. Julian, sole child of Thomas Hawey, of Comb-Hawey, now Comb-hay, in Somerset, and Compton Hawey, in Dorsetshire, manors long held by the Stradlings. (*Hutchins's Dorset. IV. 42.*)

SIR PETER was father of SIR EDWARD, who did homage in 1314 for Compton to John, Abbot of Sherborne, and in 1328 witnessed, at Merthyr-mawr, a concession of that manor by John Syward to Reginald Somerton. He married

Elena, daughter and heiress of Sir Gilbert Strongbow, of Caldecot, *co.* Monmouth, a younger brother to Richard, Earl of Pembroke. She brought two Oxfordshire manors to the family, and had Edward and George, probably ancestor of the Stradling's of Kenfig. By a concession dated 1341, William de Sancto Donato, Abbot of Neath, in consideration of an acre of land to St. Donat's, and the Advowson of the Church, gave to Sir Edward, Elena his wife, and their issue, a general participation in the spiritual good things of his Abbey, and founded an obit., after their death, annually, for ever. In this deed Sir Edward is called "Dominus de Sancto Donato Anglicanus," so that the family had probably not up to that time resided, nor indeed does their name appear in any of the extant deeds of an earlier period in the County.

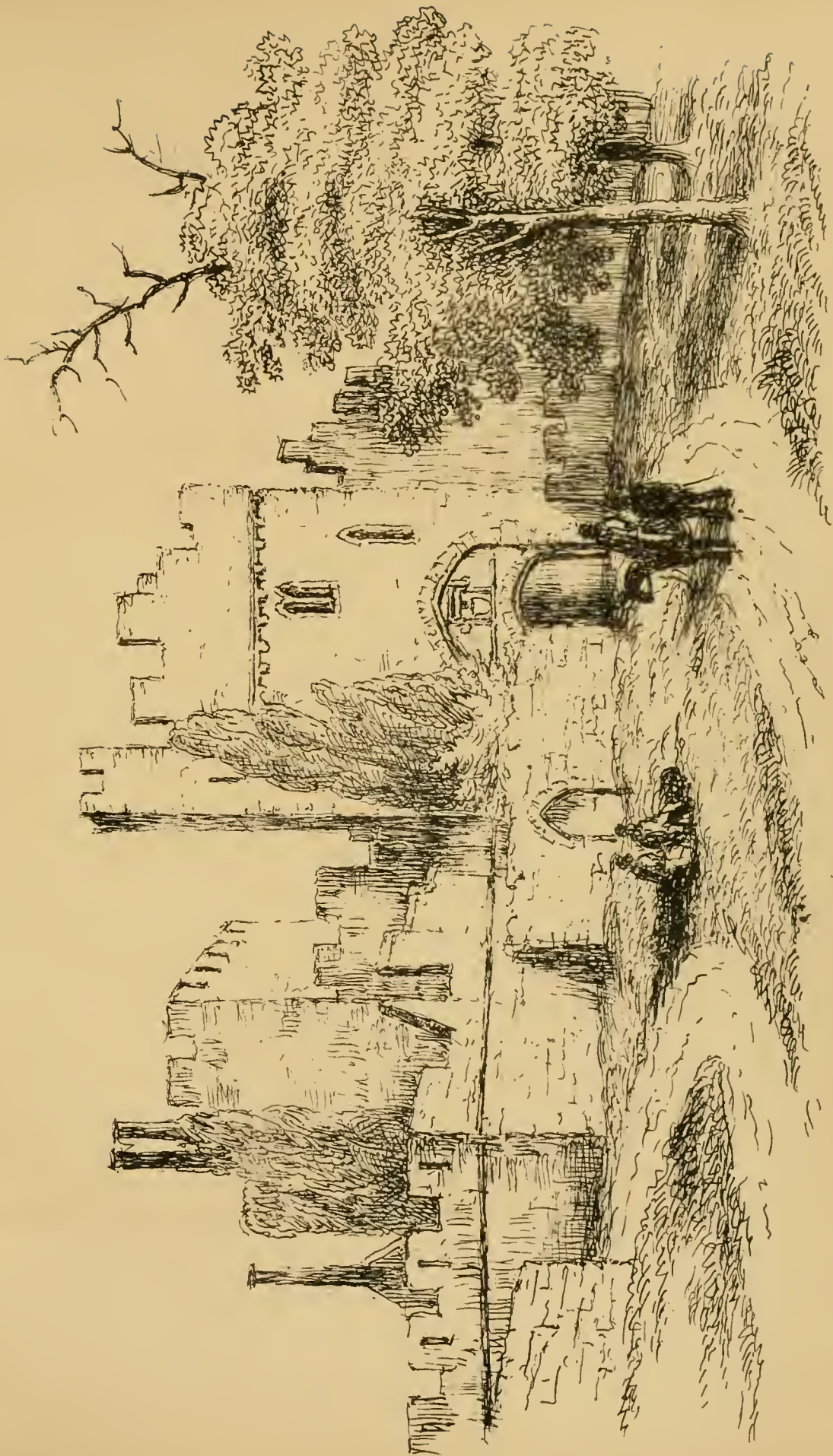
SIR EDWARD, the son, visited the East, and became a Knight of the Sepulchre. In 1339, he witnessed a charter of Hugh le Despenser to Margam, in 1344 was M.P. for Somerset, and in 1363 did homage for Compton. He was Sheriff of Glamorgan in 1367. He married Wenllian, daughter of Sir Roger Berkerolles by Katherine daughter and co-heir of Sir Richard Turberville, of Coyty, and eventually heir of her father's brother Sir Lawrence Berkerolles. By this match the Stradling's inherited East Orchard or Norchard, and Merthyr-mawr. Sir Edward when Sheriff in 1369, witnessed a deed relating to the Manors of Norchard Berkrolles, Merthyr-mawr and Lanfey ; and in 1373, when no longer Sheriff, a Charter by Edward Lord le Despenser to the Borough of Avan.

SIR WILLIAM his son and heir, went pilgrim to Jerusalem, *temp.* Richard II., and also became a Knight of the Sepulchre. He married Julian, daughter and heir of John St. Barbe, of South Brent, County of Somerset, and had Edward, Sir John, and William, the last being ancestor of the Stradlings of Wilts, whose tragic ending is well known, and those of Ruthyn in Glamorgan.

In 1390, Sir William had a release from Margeret Bawdewyn, of her claims on the lands of Peter Bawdewyn, of St. Donats, which Sir William held by gift of John Winchester (de Winton), Lord of Llandow. In 1400, being Seneschal of Gower, he held an inquisition as to the heirship of Richard Scurlage.

SIR EDWARD STRADLING, the next Lord of St. Donat's, was with his father in the East. He inherited the Berkerolles Estates, and a quarter of those of Turberville. He was also a Knight of the Sepulchre, and died at Jerusalem. He married Jane, daughter of Henry afterwards Cardinal Beaufort, by Alice, daughter of Richard Earl of Arundel, and with her had Halsway Manor, County of Somerset. They had Harry son and heir. There was also a large number of illegitimate children, who founded families, and whose mothers, as is common in Welsh Pedigrees, are recorded with such scrupulous accuracy as shows their characters not to have materially suffered. 1402, Edward Stradling had half a burgage in Swansea, from Alice Charles, one of the witnesses being Sir William the Senechal, probably of Gower; also in 1421, Sir Edward had a release from Sir Gilbert Denys, and in 1629, he granted the Manor of Lanfey to Cardinal Beaufort and others, no doubt as trustees; also, by deed in 1439, Sir Edward gave an acquittance of certain claims for lands in Coyty. In 1441, a recovery was suffered in the Court of Ogmore for the Manor of Lanfey, the parties to which were Sir Edward Stradling and Joan his Wife, Cardinal Beaufort and others. In 1452, an inquisition records Sir Edward Stradling as seized of Halfway and Combhawey Manors, and a burgage in Watchet; also in 1480-1, Joan Stradling was seized of Compton Hawey, Comb-Hawey, and Halfway Manors. (*I. P. M. vol. iv. l.c.*)

SIR HARRY STRADLING who succeeded, was aged 30 at his father's death, in 16th of Edward IV. 1476-78. He is celebrated as having been kidnapped when

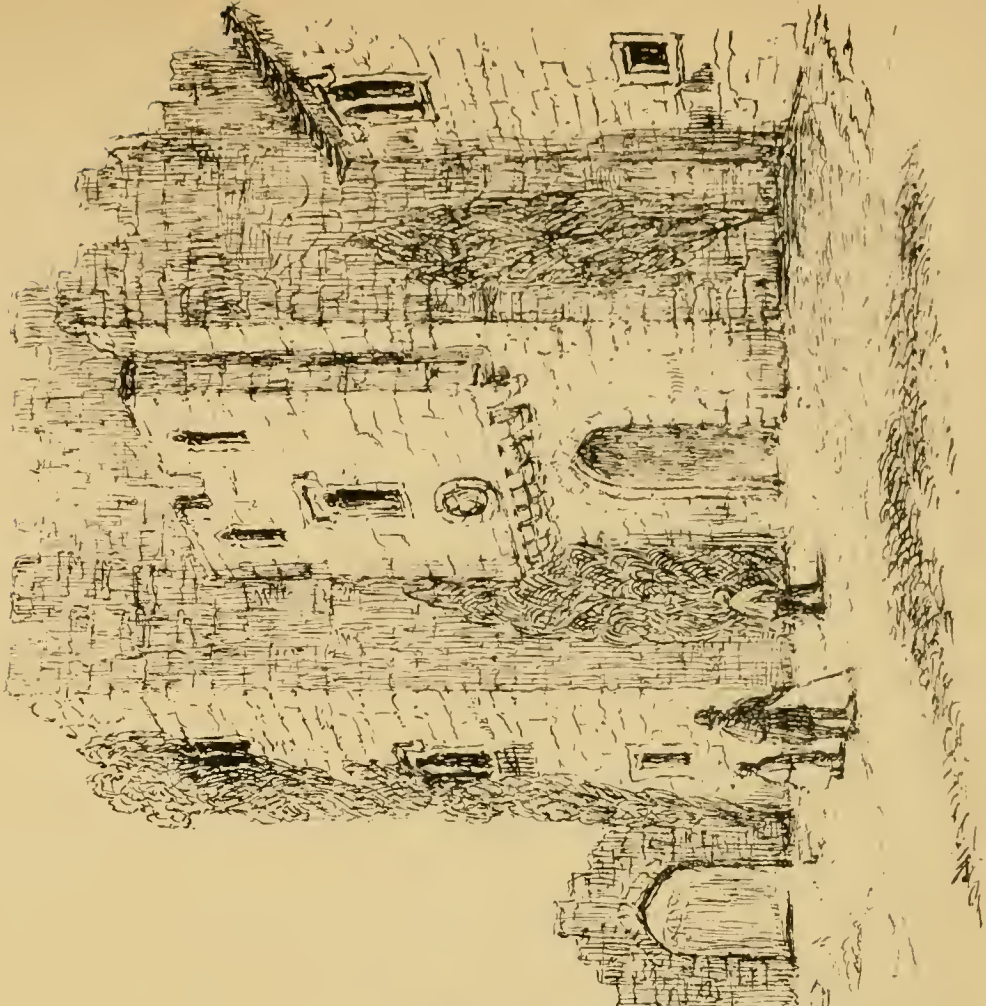
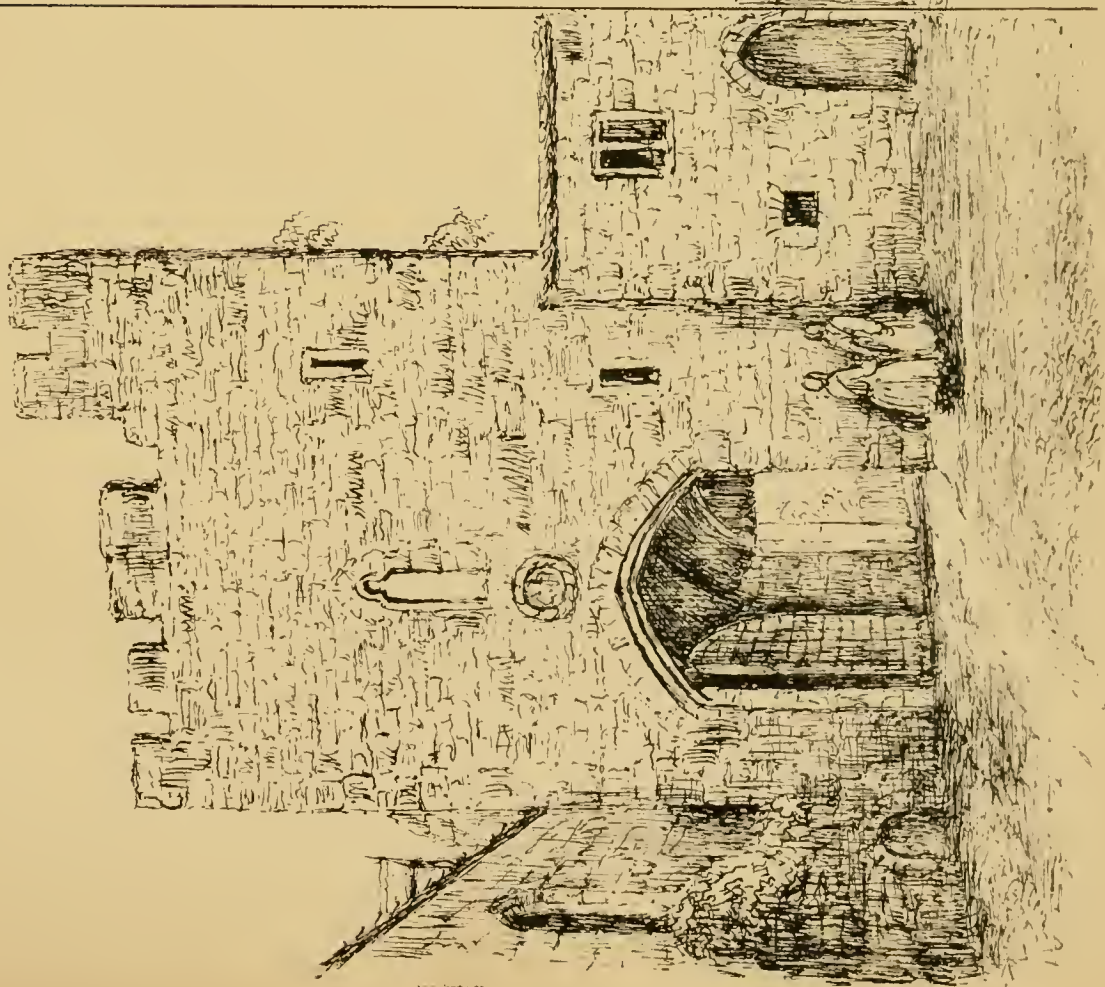


crossing the Severn by Colyn Dolphyn, a Breton pirate, who put him to ransom at 2000 marks. To raise this sum the Manors of Sutton in Glamorgan, Basalleg, Rogerston and Tregwillim, County of Monmouth, and two Manors in Oxfordshire were sold. Sir Henry visited Jerusalem the year of this mishap, was there knighted, and died on his way home at Famaugusta, in Cyprus. He is said to have built the Watch Tower, certainly to little purpose. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William ap Thomas Herbert of Raglan, full sister to the great Earl of Pembroke. There is extant a deed by Hugh Adam, parson of St. Donat's and another, enfeoffing Henry Stradling, Esq., and Elizabeth his wife, in the Manor of Lanfey, 18 Oct : 13 : Edw. IV. 1473.

The following very curious letter from Sir Harry to his Wife has been preserved. There are various copies of it, and it has been printed by Mr. Traherne, but as it does not appear in his collection of Stradling letters, and is little known, it is here repeated.

“Ryght herteley belowyd wyfe, I grete wele a thowsande tymes, lettyngē
 “yowe wete that at the makynge of this lett^r I was in gode hele, eblessyd be
 “God, and that is grete wond^r for ther was neuⁿ meñ that hadde so pelowse a
 “wey as we hadde, save only eworschep be God we were not let in no place,
 “nor tangled : the pilgremys that were goyng to Cales, were iij tymes cast
 “alonde w^t storme ; and assone as I come, eblessyde be God, we were ouⁿ wⁿyn
 “iiij owres, and taried there till the furst Sonday of Clene Lent, and a Sonday
 “aft^r mas we toke oure jorne, and wente owte of the towne vij schore psones,
 “and went so till we come to the londe of Luke, and there eu^y mañ dyd wex
 “wery of othur. Notw^tstondyng I met at Londoñ iij of my sonne Mile is neyperes
 “aprest, and ij othur. Also Johⁿ Wachⁿ and Johⁿ Lewis Gont^r, yo^r cosyñ,
 “and iiij w^t theñ ; and so we were xij psons, and iiⁿ neuⁿ deptyd till we come

“ to Rome, for I lette yowe wete there was . . . mañ of my contre wolde come
 “ any me, but hadde leu^o wolow meñ of othur contres ; and as I wene, I . . .
 “ theñ of the same s’vise. God let neu^o mañ have nede to them ; and a gode
 “ Fryday in the mornyng we come to Rome ; the nyȝt to fore we lay in a forest
 “ vnd^r a tre, evill at ese by cause we wolde ou^otake the , and to se the
 “ vernicle, and so we sawe hit Friday, Sat^rday, and Sondag, and a Sondag to fore
 “ masse / the pope he assoyled vs of plena remyssio, 3 aft^r he hadde songe his
 “ masse he come ageyñ and assoyleð theñ as fre as that day theye were borñ,
 “ and for to say that there was pepuñ, there was w’oute nom^r, and for se othur
 “ plac^e of Remissioñ w’out eny mo nom^r. And also as tochyng yo^r absolucioñ
 “ I hadde grete labo^r and cost to gete hit vnd^r ledde, and therefore lett eny
 “ mañ or womañ bewar howe he makythe a vow hit is akowven^t must be kept.
 “ Also I hope to God to remove toward^e Wenys by litell est^o day, and I have
 “ gete my licens of the Pope and iiij Engliche meñ more w^t me ; and yef I
 “ kañ go in savete, I will go, yef no I will be at home by Mydsoñ ; and yef I
 “ go h^t will be alhalowyn tyde or I come / home. And also Richarde Rethe is
 “ in gode hele blessyd be God, save he was a liteñ crasid in his legge a fortenyȝt
 “ w^t a senewe spronge, and nowe he is hole. Notw^tstondyng Toñ Gethyñ
 “ offeryd to go in his place, but he wiñ not by no mene. Also I pray yowe
 “ to se my dayes kept at Barry, for y^e dayes must nede be kept, or eñ^e I must
 “ be schamyd. Also I requere yowe to thynke ou^o my last wiñ, as my trust is
 “ in yowe abowe abowe añ pepuñ. Also astochyng the westment at Londoñ
 “ there is apoñ hit iiij. li. wherof I payed a nobuñ in ernyst ; Joh^an de Bole
 “ kañ tell he was at the bargeñ makyng 3 Wiñm Jenkyñ. Also the Kyng of
 “ Hungery hathe hadde a grete distress aponne Turk^e to the nomer of xl.
 “ thowsande and his sonne takyñ and is w^t Cristeñ meñ, and therefore I trust
 “ to God ow^r wey wiñ be the bet^t. Also as for yo^r absolucioñ Toñ Gethyñ
 “ bryngethe hit home, by cause y^e porer y^t a man goythe the be^t hit is, but



“hit costithe grete gode, and nere hit were for yo^r sowle his helthe hit schulde
 “neuⁿ be boȝt for me; I hadde neuer so grete travayle for no thyng. Also that
 “ye be gode maystres to Res De ; he was gode to me ee myle in my feleschepe,
 “and boed behynde at the last and meȝt not go. And when I come to Rome
 “I met w^t Thoñ Gethyñ, and there he went not fro me, but went all the
 “staciones w^t me bet^t then he y^t hadde be here vij yere to fore, for he knewe
 “evy place as well w^oute y^e towne as w^yñ, and bode here iiij dayes apoñ his
 “cost to have you^r bull. Right hertely belowyd wyfe, almyhty iñu have yowe
 “in his kepyng^e ; and loke that ye be agode chere and prey for me, as I trust
 “to God to pray for yowe ; for I trust to God at this ow^r I am clene to God
 “and to the worlde as clene as/ y^e day I was borne.”

Wretyn at Rome the last day of Marche.

Yo^r husbonde,

HARRE STRADLYNG.

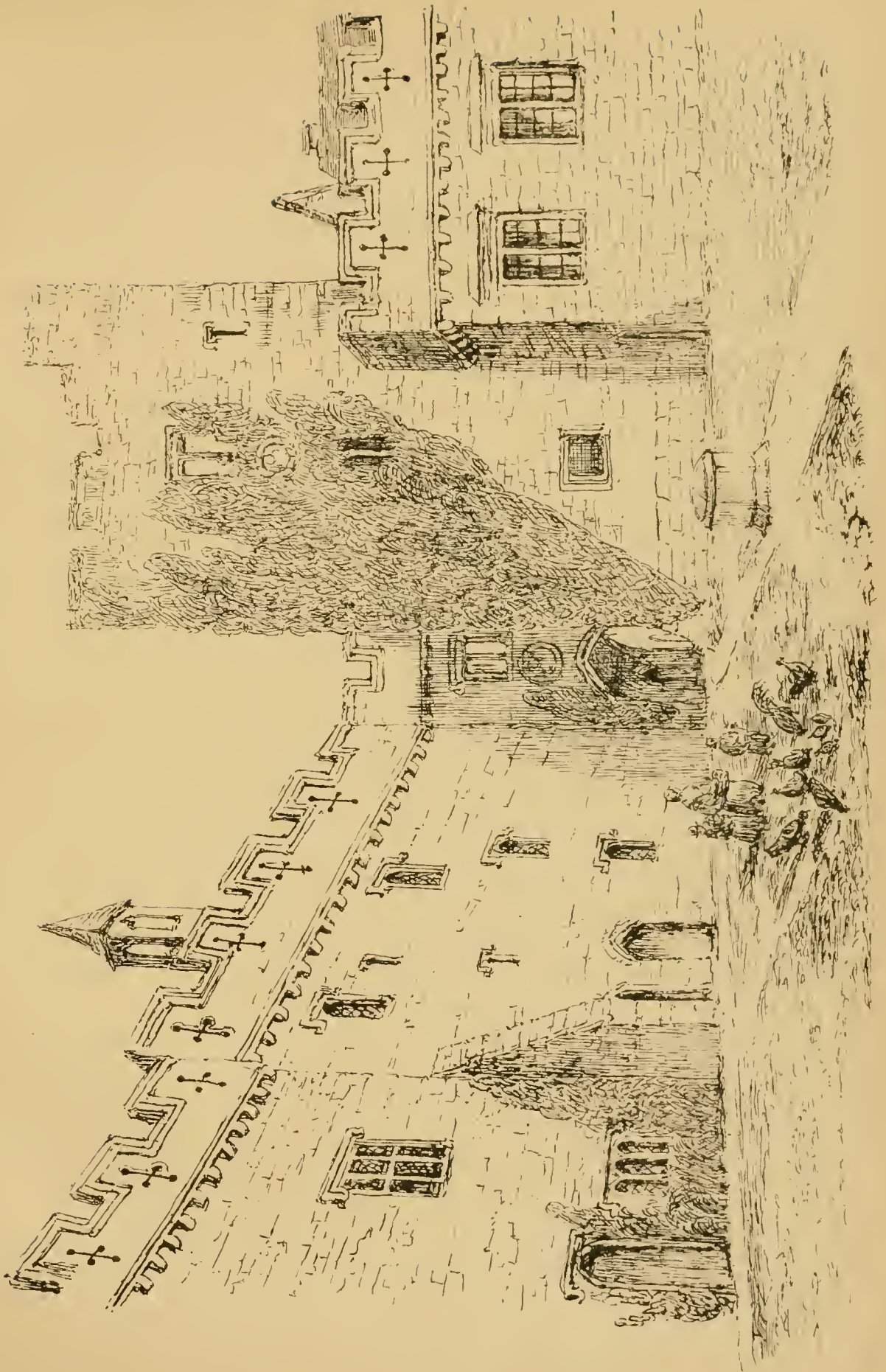
(*In dorso*,) To my . . Right
 hertely belowyd
 Wyfe Elyzabethe
 Stradlyng.

Lřa Henrici Stradlyng
 ad vxorē de Roma
 missa.

CORRECTED VERSION.

Right heartily beloved wife, I greet (you) well a thousand times, letting
 you wit that at the making of this letter I was in good health, blessed

be God, and that is great wonder, for there was never men had so perilous a way as we had, save only, worship be to God, we were not let in no place nor tangled. The pilgrims that were going to Calais were three times cast on land with storms, and as soon as I came, blessed be God, we were over within four hours and tarried there till the first Sunday of Clean Lent. And on Sunday after mass we took our journey and went out of the town seven score persons, and went so till we came to the land of Lucca, and then every man did wax weary of each other. Notwithstanding I met at London three of my son Miles' neighbours apprest (ready), and two others also, John Vaughan and John Lewis Gunter your cousin and four with them; and so we were twelve persons, and never departed (parted) till we came to Rome, for I let you know there were . . . man of my country would come nigh me, but had liefer follow men of other countries, and as I ween serve them of the same service. God let never man have need of them! And on Good Friday, in the morning, we came to Rome; the night before we lay in a forest under a tree, ill at ease, because we would overtake the . . . and to see the vernicle (sacred handkerchief of St. Veronica). And so we saw it Friday, Saturday, and Sunday; and on Sunday before mass the Pope assoiled us of "plena remissio," and after he had sung his mass he came again and assoiled them as free as that day they were born; and for to say that there was people, there was without number, and so for other places of remission without any number. And also as touching your absolution, I had great labour and cost to get it under lead (the Pope's seal); and therefore let any man or woman beware how he maketh a vow: it is a covenant (that) must be kept. Also I hope to God to remove towards Venice by little Easter day; and I have got my licence of the Pope and four Englishmen more with me: and if I can go in safety I will go; if not I will be at home by midsummer; and if I go, it will be All-hallows tyde ere I come



home. And also Richard Rees is in good health, blessed be God, save he was a little crased in his leg a fortnight (ago) with a sinew sprung, and now he is whole. Notwithstanding Tom Gethin offered to go in his place, but he will not by no means. Also I pray you to see my days kept at Barry, for the days must needs be kept, or else I must be shamed. Also I require you to think of my last will, as my trust is in you above all people. Also as touching the vestment at London, there is upon it three pounds, whereof I paid a noble in earnest; John de Bole can tell, he was at the bargain-making, and William Jenkin. Also the King of Hungary hath had a great distress upon Turks (victory over the Turks) to the number of forty thousand (killed), and his son (Bajazet) taken, and is with Christian men: and therefore I trust to God our way will be the better. Also as for your absolution Tom Gethin bringeth it home, because the poorer a man goeth the better it is; but it costeth great goods and nere (unless) it were for your soul's health it should never be (have been) bought for me. I never had so great travail for anything. Also that ye be good mistress to Rees Dee; he was good to me two hundred miles in my fellowship, and bode behind at the last and might not go (could not go on). And when I came to Rome I met with Tom Gethin, and there he went not from me, but went all the stations with me better than he that had been here ten years before; for he knew every place as well without the town as within, and bode here four days upon his (own) cost to have your bull (of absolution). Right heartily beloved wife, Almighty Jesu have you in his keeping, and look that you be of good cheer and pray for me, as I trust to God to pray for you: for I trust to God at this hour I am clean to God and to the world, as clean as the day I was born.

Written at Rome, the last day of March.

Your husband, HARRY STRADLING.

Various Contemporary Records show the existence about this time of several kinsmen of the name, settled about Coity and Ogmere. Thus Edmund 1452, was father of John and Edward: there occur also William and John, 1454: Henry, 1473, and Elizabeth his wife: William father of John, 1480: and Edmund of the same date. Sir Harry was succeeded by his son.

THOMAS STRADLING, Esq., of St. Donat's, who died September 8th, 1048, under the age of 26. He married Janet, daughter of Thomas Mathew, of Radyr, whose second husband was the well-known Sir Rhys ap. Thomas. She died 1485, they had Edward the heir, and Harry, whose grandson eventually succeeded.

SIR EDWARD STRADLING, was knighted in Tournay Church, under the royal banner of Henry VIII, 25th of December, 5. of Henry VIII. [*State Papers* H. viii, 4468.] He died 1535, having married Elizabeth, a daughter of Sir Thomas Arundel, of Tremokeet, in Dulve, who married secondly William Lyson, and died 1513. Their eldest son was Thomas. In 1528, Jevan Thomas and others, on the requisition of Sir Edward Stradling, granted to William, Sir Edward's son, lands in St. Bride's, with remainder to Jaynkin Stradling his brother, James Stradling his brother, John Stradling, minor, Robert Stradling, Robert Stradling the elder, Edward Stradling, Henry Stradling, Blanch Stradling, Mary Stradling, and Cecilie Stradling, all brothers and sisters, with the remainder to the right heirs of Sir Edward Stradling. These were all Sir Edward's natural children. There remain also two indentures between Sir E. Stradling and Philip ap Llewelyn, relating to lands in Alun Marsh and Blomeston, dated 1530.

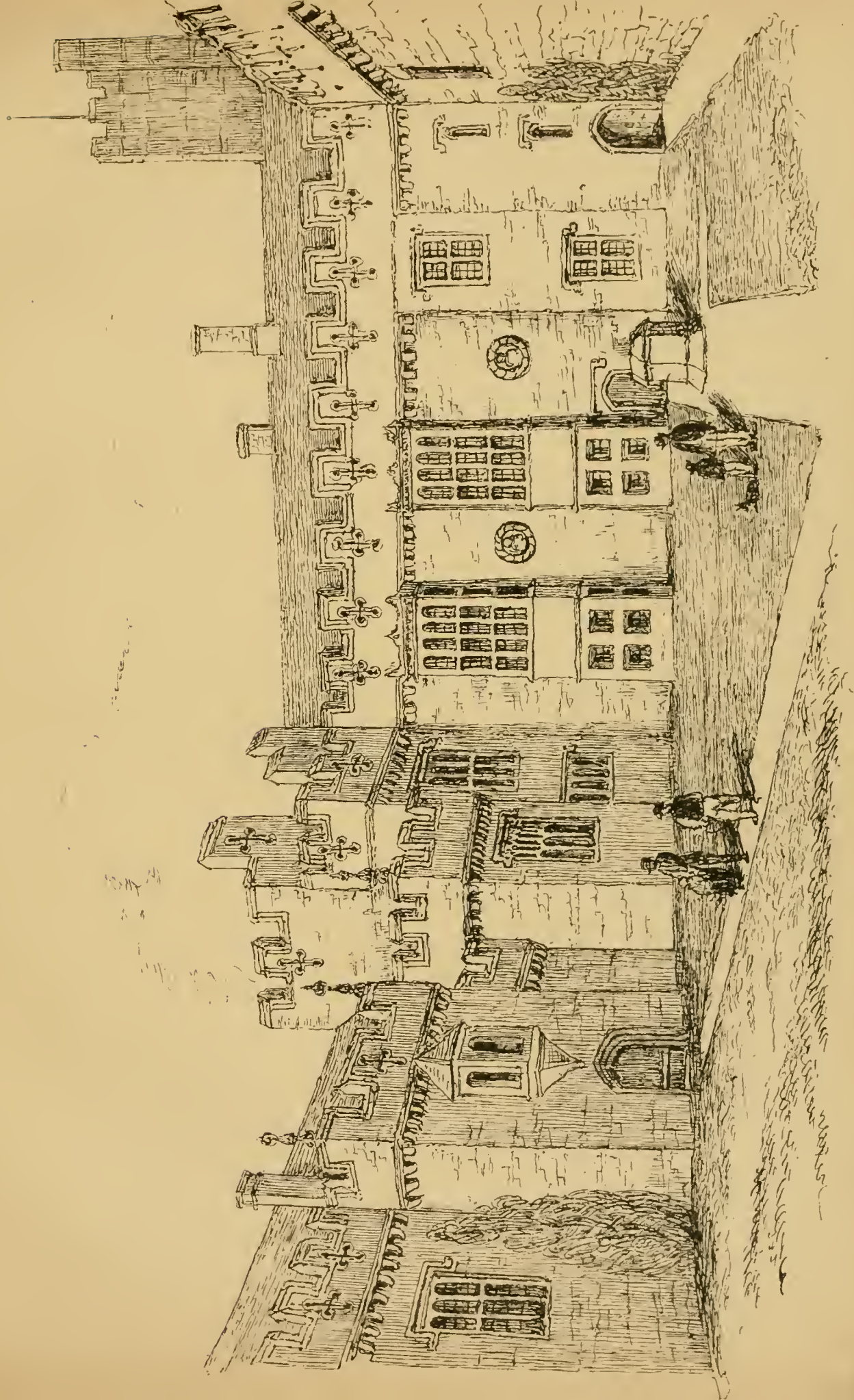
SIR THOMAS STRADLING, Sheriff in 1547-8, Knighted 17th of February, 1549, 3rd of Edward VI., Muster Master to the Queen's Army, and a Commissioner for the Marches ; M.P. for East Grinstead, 1558, and for Arundel, 1558. He was also a Commissioner for the suppression of heretics, 1558. Will dated December 19th, 1566, and proved in London, May, 1571. He built the Stradling Chapel, attached to St. Donat's Church. Sir Thomas married Katherine, eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Gamage, of Coyty, and had Edward, and other children.

Sir Thomas appears as Thomas Stradling, Esq., in a deed by William Tyler, relating to "Sygyngslands," probably Sigginston, in 1534, and Tyler is also party in 1544, to a deed with William Stradling of Talygarn and Margaret his wife, also about "Sygenslonde," and to a third deed in the same year relating to a payment of 42 marks to Thomas Stradling, of St. Donat's. In this reign Thomas Stradling, of Halsway, Esq., addressed Sir John Dawnce, Knight Master to Henry VIII, probably Surveyor General, on the subject of the dependence of Merthyr-Mawr upon Talavan Manor. In 1548, Sir Thomas Stradling was party to a release of lands near Ewenny Bridge, and in 1558, he exchanged 6 acres in Llantwit, with William Van. In 1569 Sir Thomas suffered a recovery for lands in Llanfey, Jenkyn Stradling being his deputy.

The principal event in the life of Sir Thomas was probably the "invention of a Cross," in a tree blown down upon his property, and which brought him under the censure of the Queen's Government. The circumstances of this discovery and its consequence are the subject of a paper in the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, Jan. 1865, which, by permission of the Editor, is here with some omissions reprinted.

In the fourth of the "Sex Dialogi" of Harpsfield, published in 1566, at Paris, under the care of Alan Cope, there occurs a curious account of the well-known figure of the cross, observed in the broken trunk of an ash tree blown down by a storm at St. Donat's, in 1559, of which the following is a translation.

"In that part of our isle which the ancients call Cambria, and we call Wales, "the gusty violence of the winds threw down an aged ash tree, so that its butt, "although laid open and riven to the centre, yet anchored by the roots, stood "for seven feet above the ground, and lo ! in the interior structure of the gaping "trunk there appeared a cross rather longer than a man's foot, and what was "more marvellous, the part which lay upon the ground presented the same "figure of a cross in all its details. And as the thing was noted by almost "all our folks, and the cross did not suddenly disappear, but remained several "years in the trunk of the tree, to the great wonder of the beholders, it so "happened that there was a frequent and full concourse of people to the place "to see so rare and celebrated a sight. Those, too, who could not conveniently "go thither, asked others to show them a faithful drawing of the cross in all its "details ; whose creditable request in this matter was amply satisfied, for a "likeness was drawn true to the prototype, answering to it in every way, neither "amplifying nor withholding anything for the sake of addition or detraction. "Whence, in fine, it happened that it became the subject of almost every conversation ; and there was scarce anyone who had not either seen the cross, or "obtained a fac-smile of it, or in some other way learned the facts about it, on "very satisfactory evidence. The thing was too evident to be denied, but too "repugnant to the opinions of the Protestants to be admitted by them. Would, "would ! that my countrymen, divinely admonished by such miracles, would cease, "after the example of St. Paul, to persecute Christ in his cross, his image, and



“his members. Would! whence they have gone out, they would return thither, that is, to the fold of Christ, weeping bitterly with Peter; but this is easier to wish than to hope. I shall never cease either to wish or hope so long as I shall live and they whom it concerns that I should not be disappointed in my wishes and my hope; for to one of these Christian charity invites me, and to the other the unbounded goodness and power of God. But of these on another occasion. Now to the matter in hand. Many pictures of this wondrous cross being scattered hither and thither, one at last has fallen into my hands, which as opportunity happens, I have here with me, with the verses written beneath it, which describe every step of the story briefly, but with elegance and clearly, which if you wish to see, I will not balk your curiosity.

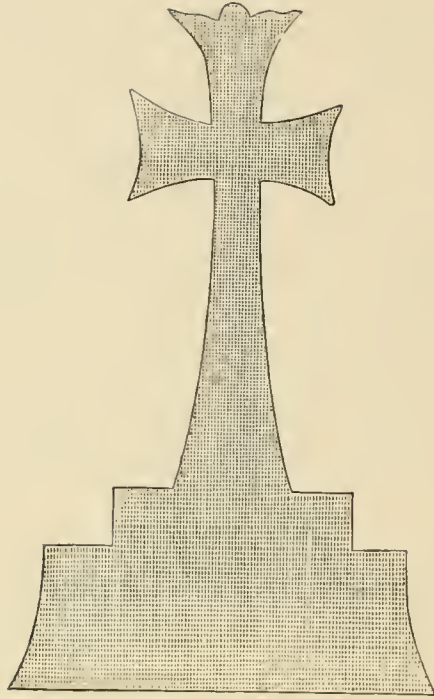
Crit.—“I much desire to have a view of it; for if I have received so much pleasure from your bare narrative, how much more shall I derive from the correct delineation, which will, so to speak, bring the figure before my eyes.”

Iren.—“Look ye then at it.”

Crit.—“The thing is wonderful.”

Iren.—“In truth we may say with David, “this is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.” But read the verses, and compare them with the cross, that you may see how aptly they answer in every part.

Crit.—“Your advice is just.”



“ ANNO DOMINI 1559. XIII KALEND. APRILIS.

“ Hanc crucis effigiem, pie Lector, fraxinus ipso,
 Quem legis hîc, anno, mense, dieque dedit.
 Arbor apud Uallos Stradlingi crevit in arvis :
 Hic torquatus eques (si modò quæris) erat.
 Tempestas oritur, fortis confringitur arbor :
 Exhibet hanc mollis deinde medulla crucem.
 Formam charta docet, nux avellana colorem :
 Mensura, expressit quam tibi pictor, erat.



“ Fraxinus hæreticos duros, hominesque rebelles :

Mites corda viros tecta medulla notat.

Fraxinei Christi obscurant insignia trunci.

Obscurata tegunt signa, virosque premunt.

Sed Libani cedros tandem, hæreticosque rebelles

Confringet summi ferrea virga Dei.

Tunc cultusque Dei, pietasque, fidesque vigeant :

Exseret et celsum crux tua, Christe, caput.”

JOANNES FENNUS.

[Dialogi Sex, etc. 4to. Parisiis, 1566, folio 504.]

THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1559. 20th OF MARCH.

This image of the Cross an ash did shew,

The year, month, day, above recorded, know :

In Wales, good reader, grew the wonderous tree,

On Stradling's lands, a belted knight is he.

The stem was shattered one tempestuous day ;

Then the soft centre did this cross display.

Its shape this sheet, the hazel nut its hue,

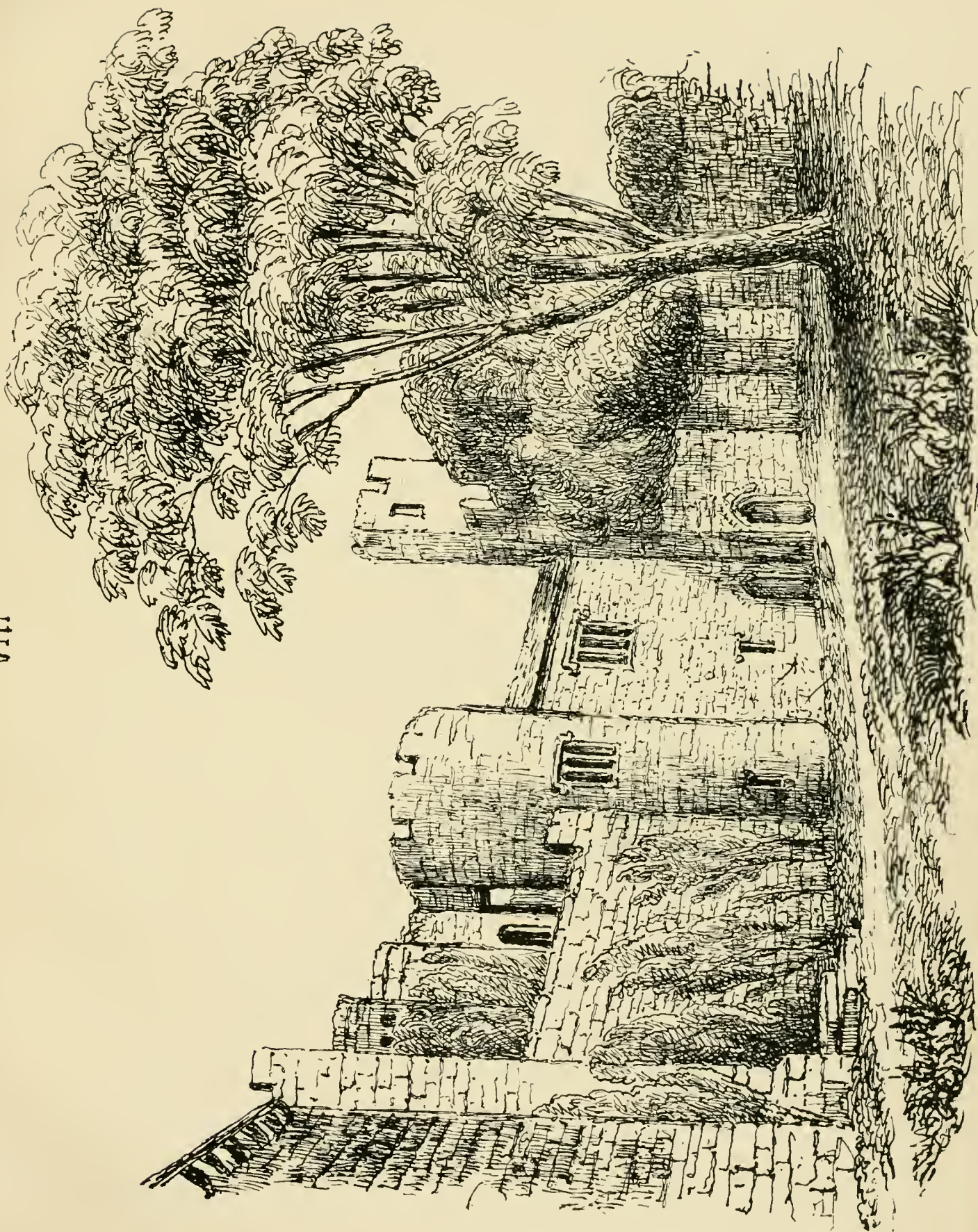
And for its size thou hast one fourth the true.*

* The drawing has been reduced to a quarter.

In the stout ash the heretic behold ;
 In its soft flesh good men of gentler mould ;
 The rebels, like the ash tree's stubborn pride,
 May crush Christ's vassals, and their blazon hide,
 But trees and heretics alike can God
 Crush if he will it, with his iron rod ;
 Then faith, devotion, piety shall spread,
 And Christ's own cross lift up to heaven its head.

It is not probable that this story is pure fabrication ; but no naturalist will believe the symmetrical figure represented in the wood cut to have been a *lusus naturæ*, or that any accidental discolouration would assume so regular a form. Harpsfield and his nostrates no doubt sincerely regarded the appearance as miraculous ; but it seems unnecessary to tax the faith or credulity of their modern representatives to this extent, since it may be accounted for by natural causes. A device—and a person conversant with the elegant shaft, still pointing heavenward, in the churchyard of St. Donat's, could be at no loss for an excellent one—deeply carved through the rind of a growing tree into the young wood, would in time be covered by the overlapping of the new bark : while from the want of cohesion between this and the injured wood the figure would remain but little altered, and in time, by successive additions, be buried deep in the trunk, where an accidental fracture might disclose it. In such a case one face of the fracture would, as in the present instance, present a cast or impression of the figure upon the other.

It appears from Froude, who mentions this invention of a cross in a note



to his *History of England*, (vii, p. 339), that it had reached the ears of Government, and was thought by Cecil important enough to be inquired into. Unfortunately for Sir Thomas Stradling this occurred at a very critical period, in April 1561, just when Philip of Spain had demanded the release of the bishops who were imprisoned in the Tower for refusing the oath of supremacy, and when the leading reformers were greatly alarmed, and Protestant England with them, by a report that Elizabeth was about to be reconciled with Rome. "When I saw this Romish influence toward," wrote Cecil, "I thought it necessary to dull the Papists' expectations by punishing of massmongers for the rebating of their humours," and Sir Thomas Stradling of St. Donat's was accordingly selected to have his humours rebated.

The day of his committal appears to have been early in May ; but it was not till the 3rd June, 1561, that he was indicted and convicted at the commission of oyer held at Brentwood in Essex, when his offence was "the having caused four pictures to be made of the likeness of the cross which appeared in the grain of a tree blown down on his estate in Glamorganshire."

The second document is a petition to the same effect, but less diffuse. The author of the printed calendar of these papers attributes, probably, to the 5th of June the date of the third document, which is a report from Sir Roger Vaughan and Sir Edward Lewis, in obedience to a commission issued in the preceding May, no doubt upon Sir Thomas' first committal. The report repeats the substance of the commission, and announces that, not having a draughtsman at hand, they, as directed, cut away the part of the tree on which the figure appeared, and sent it up, under seal, to the Privy Council, who do not, however, seem to have preserved it in their archives.

Of the following documents, printed from the State Paper Office, the first is Sir T. Stradling's petition from the Tower, giving a very clear account of the whole transaction. The daughter he alludes to as remaining with the old Lady Dormer (Jane Newdigate) at Louvain, was no doubt Damasyn, Sir Thomas's third daughter, who lived with the Countess de Feria, daughter to Lady Dormer, and died at Cafra, in Spain, in the spring of 1567.

The only other document is the one referred to in the preceding paper, dated 15th of October, 1563, and which may therefore be the time of Sir Thomas's liberation from the Tower.

The next or 5th paper, is dated eight year's later, 21st December, 1569, and though it relates to a different matter, is here inserted because its subject is the same, Sir Thomas Stradling, now an infirm old man, and as it would seem, a partial conformist. It is addressed to "The Council of the Marches of Wales," and is signed by Thomas Carne, of Ewenny.

Sir Thomas Stradling died in 1573, and the usual inquisition was held 13-14 Elizabeth. He was succeeded by his son, Sir Edward, a man of some literary taste, to whom were addressed most of the letters, for the printing of which Glamorganshire is indebted to its late eminent antiquary, the Rev. J. M. Traherne. Sir Thomas seems to have recovered the good graces of the Government, since in 1578, he was conjoined with Sir Edward Mansell, in a Commission to enquire into a local act of piracy.

The appended papers give some insight into the life of the old Knight, and will be read with interest in the county. The Stradling's were always regarded with much pride by the men of Glamorgan. Their grand old Castle with its

sheltered Church, terraced gardens, and secluded sea shore, presents much the same general appearance that it must have presented to the last of their race a century and a quarter ago. The Park has been disparked, and the timber felled ; but the household Coat still stands in the windows, and the Castle has survived the contention of the heirs, the hungry demands of the lawyers, and the neglect of its stranger Lords, and having been repurchased by the next representative of its ancient owners is again inhabited.

The Stradlings stood nearly at the head of the gentlemen of their county. They were more addicted to piety and literature than was usual in that remote region. Three of their number were Knights of the Sepulchre, and at least two visited that holy spot.

They were by no means indifferent to the history and antiquities of their native country. They collected, and made good use of, a considerable library. They matched with the blood of Beaufort when at its highest and haughtiest; and in their decline they afforded safe shelter, fitting company, and ample means of study, to the learned and pious Usher.

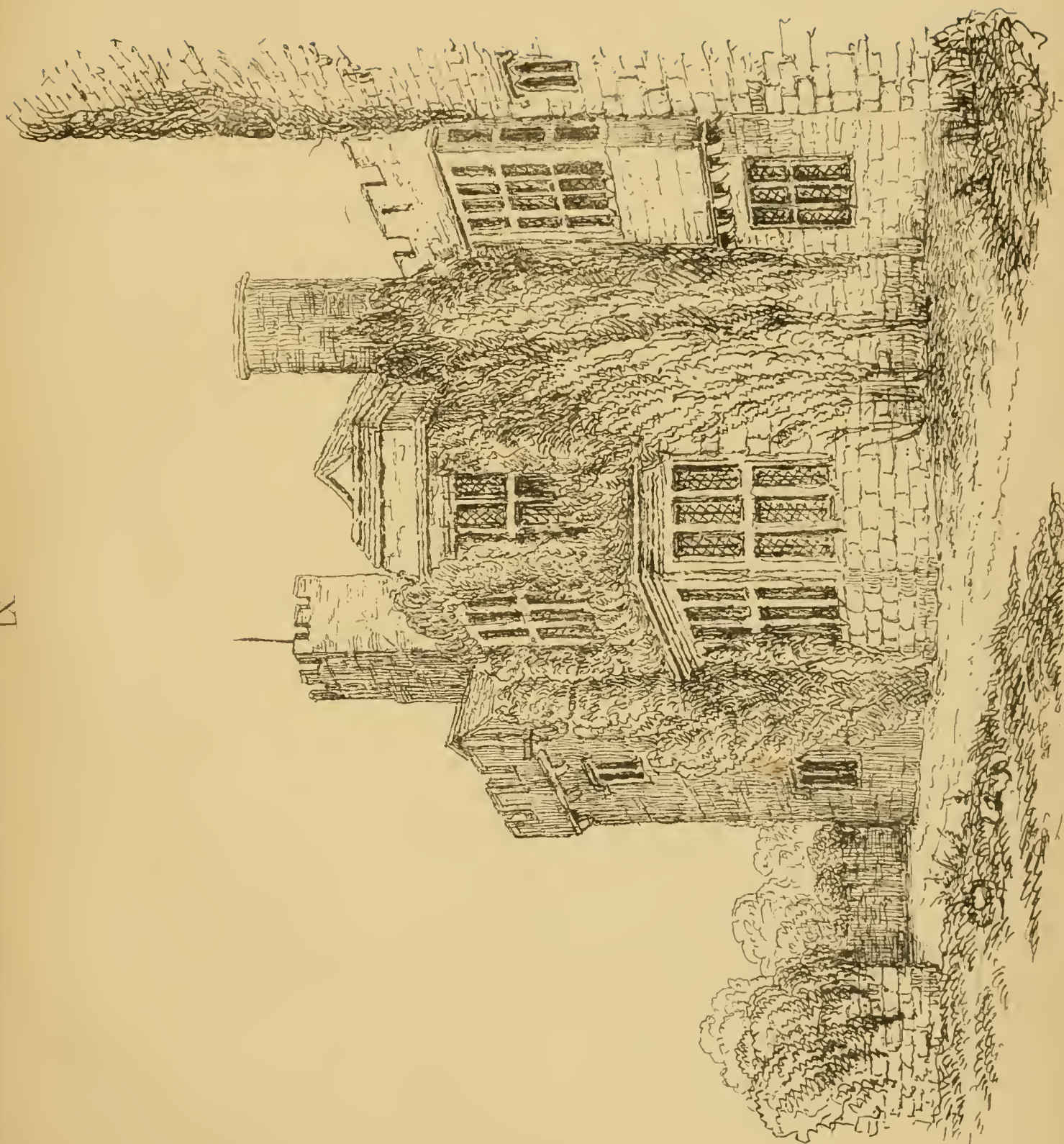
At the dissolution of the Monasteries, when the leading country gentlemen profited largely by ecclesiastical confiscations, the Stradling's retained their old faith, and resisted the tempting means of aggrandisement. A century later when the Church of England had become established venerable and endangered, the Stradlings' instinct led them again to take the losing side. The head of the family, his son, his grandson, and five of their cadets, bore arms in conspicuous positions for the King, shared in the dangers of Edgehill and Newbury, and incurred the usual pecuniary losses which fell on the vanquished party. They

gained the respect of all men, and the affection of their neighbours and dependents : and untimely death of the last Lord of St. Donat's seems to have been regarded in the country almost as a personal as well as a public calamity.

STATE PAPERS (DOMESTIC), ELIZABETH. VOL. XVII, No. 18.

To the Quenes Most Xcellent Ma^{te}.

In most humble wyse shewyth unto yo'r hyghnes yo'r feithfull and obedyent Orator Thomas Stradlyng Knyght, p'isonar in yo'r Graces Towre, that wher as abowte Est' 1559 certein trees were cast downe by the wynde in a park of your Orators in Wales, amongst the whych ther was one tree cloven in the myddes from the toppe downe hard to the grownde, the one half ther of that stack to the toppe wher on the bowes & branches grew fell downe ther wth levyng the other half ther of standyng, in the very sape or hert whereof was the picture of a crosse of xiiijynches longe, apparant & pleyn to be seen by the alteracon of the grayne wth a derker coloure varyeng from the rest of the greine of the same tre ; of the w^{ch} crosse yo'r Orator beyng in that parties aboute Est' 1560, made a patron contayneng the length, brede, & facion therof, and bryngeng the same wth hym to London caused iiij pictures therof to be painted; of the w^{ch} pictures yo'r Orator gave ij to twoo men hys wellwyllers, and sent another to a doughter yf hys remayneng wth the olde Lady Dormer at Lovain, upon occasion that a litle before that hys said doughter had sent unto him the picture of Christe in his resurection. Yo'r Orato' is very sorye that he had not fyrst fownde meanes to have made yo'r Grace prevy therof, or shewed it to yo'r hon'able Consell, and have knowen yo'r Majestes pleyzure or theyrs therin ; for yf he had knowen or thought that yo'r highnes or yo'r consell wolde have



ben offendyd ther wth or taken it in yll parte, he wolde not for any thing have done it. And for as moche as that that he dyd therin was not don upon any sediciouse purpose or yll entent, but only of ignorance, for the w^{ch} he have all redy susteyned above v. wykes imp'sonme't yo'r Orator moste humbly besecheth yo'r moste excellent Ma^{ty} of yo'r accostomed clemencie to bere w^t hys ignorance therin, and that this his imp'so'ment may be a sufficient mitigac'on of yo'r highnes displeysure conceived against hym for the same. And yo'r Orator shall accordyng to his moste bownden dutye, as he dayly doeth, moste humblye praye for p'sp'ite of yo'r Graces moste ryall p'son wth eneresse of honor, to the contentac'on of God and the comforte of yo'r lovyng subjects longe to endure.

Yo'r Graces moste humble and obedient subject,

THOMAS STRADLYNG.

Indorsed.—Stradlyng. The submission
of Sir Thomas Stradling, Knight.

STATE PAPERS (DOM.) ELIZABETH. VOL. XVII, No. 18A.

To the Right Hono'ble the lordes of the Quenes
Ma't's moste hon'ble Prevy Cōsell.

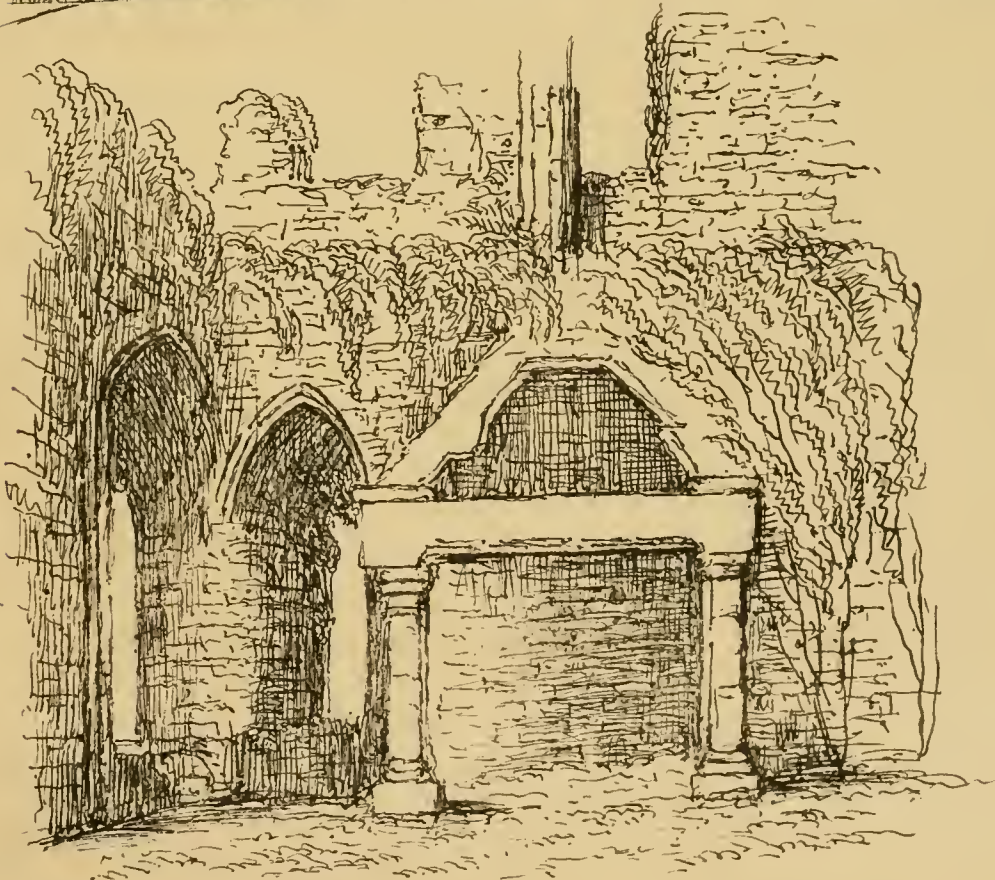
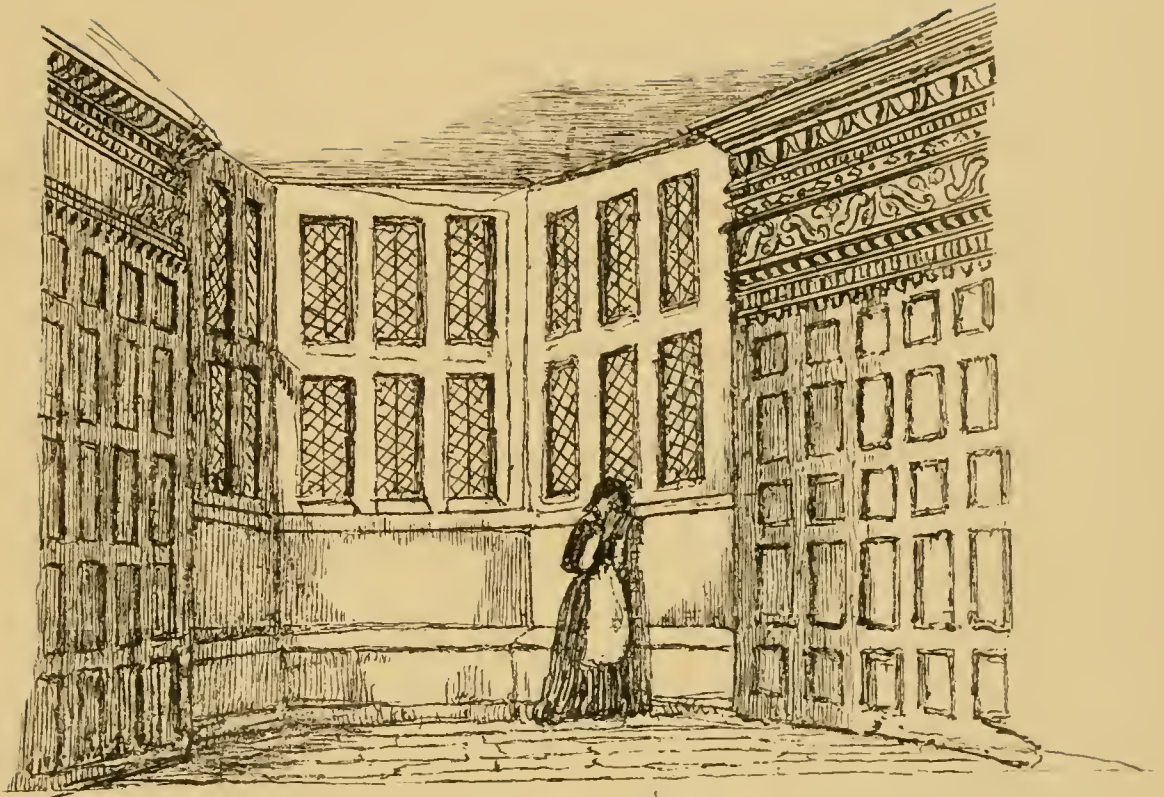
In moste humble wyse sheweth unto yo'r hon'able Lordships yo'r Orator Thomas Stradlyng Knyght, p'sonar in the Towre, that wher as your Orator fyndeng the picture of a crosse in a tre in his park toke the mesure ther of and pricked the forme of hyt wth a penn, and the same brought up wth hym to London, and caused certein pictures ther of to be paynted, of the w^{ch} yo'r Orator gave twoo to ij p'sons hys wellwyllers, and the iijde he sent to his doughter

remayneng at Lovayn. Yo'r Orator is very sorye tnat he had not fyrst shewed it unto yo'r hon'able Lordships and have knowen yo'r wyll & pleysure ther in, for yf he had knowen that the Queens Ma'te or yo'r Lordships wolde have ben offendyd therwth or have taken it in yll parte, he wolde not have don hyt for any thing. In tendre considac'on wher of, and for as moche as yo'r Orator dyd hyt not upon any sedycouse entent or yll meanyng, and the sendyng of the sayd picture to his said daughter chaunced only upon occasyon of a picture of the resurrection of Christe that she a litle before that had sent to yo'r Orator, as yo'r Orator dyd declare unto yo'r Lordships, and for non other purpose or occasyon yo'r Orator moste humblye besecheth yo'r hon'able Lordships to be a meane for him to the Quenes Highnes to bere wth hys ignorance therin, and that thys hys imp'sonment may be a sufficient mytigac'on of hyr Ma't's displeysur and yo's conceived against hym for the same. And yo'r Orator shall duely pray for the p'sp'ite of yo'r Hon'able Lordships wth encesse of honor longe to endure.

Indorsed.—The supplication of Sir Thom's Stradlinge
Knight.

STATE PAPERS (DOM.) ELIZ. VOL. XVII, No. 20.

Our dutyes moste humbly usyd unto yo'r hon'able Lordeshipes pleasyth it the same to be adv'tisyd thatt where it hathe pleasyd yo'r honors to addresse yo'r hon'able l'res dated in May laste unto us and William Bassett and Edward Gaines, requyryng us or any thre of us to repayre to the p'ke of S'r Thomas Stradlynge Knyght, at Seynt Donetts in the countey of Glamorgan, where the pycture of a subposed crosse sholde be in a tree there broken by tempeste, and there to caule for the keaper of the said parke before us, and to



knowe of hym thatt whiche we sholde thyngke requisite to be understandyd for our better p'ceedynge in that matter, and thereupon to go to the place alegid, and to view and consyder whatt man' thyng hit sholde be, and to cause a perfecte pycature thereof to be made and sent unto yo'r hono'rs. And further requiryng us to cause the upper croste thereof to be cutt or sawen of, so as yt myght appere unto us what shape sholde be underneth the same, and further to use all man' meanes that we colde devise to understand whatt they weare thatt fyrste founde the same, and whatt it was at the fyrste fiendynge of the same, and who fyrste affirmyd that to be a crosse, what pycatures have ben drawn or made thereof, by whome and by whose appoyntement, whow many of them have ben made and where bestowed, what tauke the sayd S'r Thomas hath uttered of the same, to whome and wyth whatt wordes and what opinion or p'phesies have ben spred a brod in thatt contre and by whome, and who have resortyd thether as pylgrymes or otherwyse to gase upon the same. And by whose exortac'on or p'curement. And allso to require us diligently to examyne yf any masses or other rittes abbolished have ben sayd in the sayd Mr. Stradlyngs house or thereabouts and in whose hearynge. Forasmyche as Wylliam Basset and Edward Gaines were not p'sentely at whome in theyre contreyes, so that we fowre nor thre of us myght not accordynge to yo' hon's com'andement fully accomlishe theeffect of yo'r Lordeshipes l'res. Wee therefore thought yt good to procede o'rselves in the doynge thereof by cause yo'r hon's myght be adv'tised of the state of the matter accordynge to yo'r hon's expectac'on, have endeveryd o'rselves in the accomplishment of the same as myche as in us laye. And have not only caulyd before us the keper of the seyde parke in du' exa'iac'on of the p'miss' wth dyv's others of them whome we thoght mooste metyste to be exa'i'd upon the contents of the sayd hon'able l'res. And them have sworn and exa'ied sev'ally upon ev'y poynt and article therein comp'ised, as by theyr examynac'on^s w'che we do send unto yo'r lordeshipes herein closyd

more at large may appere, butt allso have repayed to the said parke of S^r Thomas Stradlynge to view the sayd crosse o^rselves, and for lacke of good peynters to draw the pycture of the same pece of tre somewhatt lyvely, we thoght good to cause the same tre to be cutt wth a saw. Whiche tre we do send unto yo^r honors by this berer the m^ssenger unto us sent in that behaulf enclosyd in a pece of canvas and sealyd wth o^r seales, so thatt yo^r honors upon syght thereof may judge of hit as yt may appere. And thus alwayse readye to accomlishe y^r Lordships com[']andement to the moaste of o^r powers as knoweth God who p[']serve yo^r hon[']s in health to contynew.

From Cowbrige the fyveth day of June.

Yo^r Lordships mooste humble to com[']and,

Ro. VAUGHAN

EDWARD LEWYS.

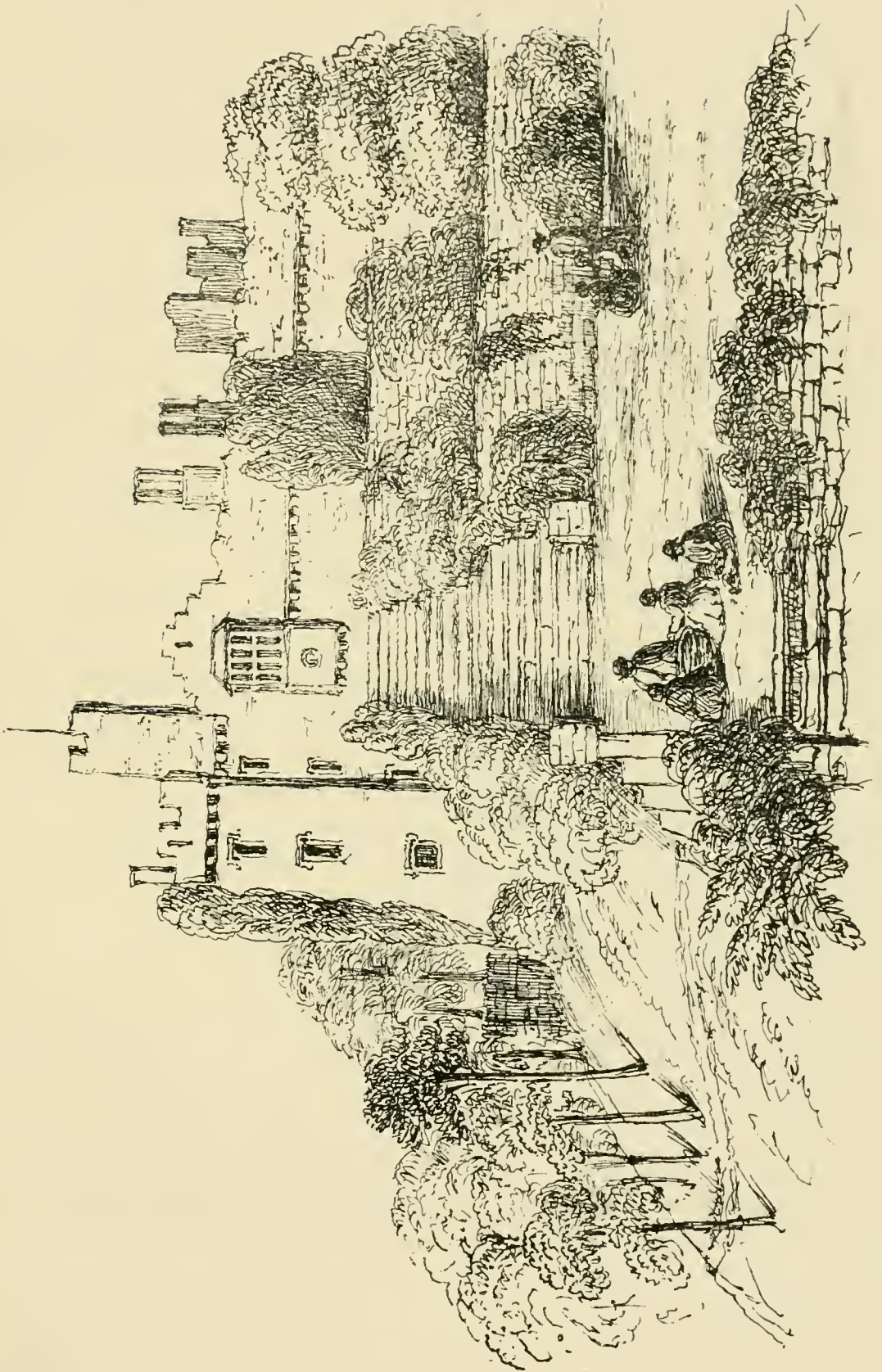
Indorsed.—To the Right Hon[']able and our synguller good Lordes of the Quenes Ma[']ties P[']vey Counsell this be d[']d.

5 Junii 1561. Ecclesiast. Certen of notes to y^e L. of y^e
Counsell touching y^e picture of y^e crosse found there.

STATE PAPERS (Dom.) ELIZ. VOL. XVII, No. 20.

Apud Seynt Donetts in com. Glamorgan iiij^{to} die
Junii anno regni Elizabeth['] Dei gra['] Anglie,
Franc['] et Hib[']ie Regine fidei Defensor['] &c.
Tercio; coram Rogero Vaughan milit['] et Ed-
wardo Lewis armig['].

John Vosse of Seynt Donett in the countey of Glamorgan yoman of thaige



of fyfthe yeres or there abouts, beyng keper of the parke of S'r Thomas Stradlynge Knyght at Seynt Donetts afforesyd in the sayd com' sworn and exa'ied tochyng a crosse or pycture of a crosse subposyd to be fownde in a broken tre w'thin the sayd p'ke, deposyth and sayth thatt a bout a iiij^{or} or fyve yeres paste the tyme s'ten this deponent dothe not well remember an olde ashe was in the sayd parke broken and cloven by tempeste, and in the mydes of the sayd pece of ashe whiche was standyng there seamyd the pycture of a crosse. And further sayth thatt the sayd pycture seamyth more darker nowe than at the fyrste tyme it was seen by resen of the weather. And beyng further exa'ied upon the hole contents of the Counsell's l'res he is ignoraunt. John Flem'ynge of Seynt Donets in the said com'gent. of thaige of xxxjⁱⁱ yeres lyckewyse sworn and exa'ied upon the contempts of the sayd hon'able l'res deposyth and sayth thatt a bout a fyve yeres paste, the tyme s'ten he doth not remember, as he havynge the charge and oversyght of the worke of S'r Thomas Stradlynge Knight at Seynt Donetts afforesayd, and as he was walkyng in his maysters parke a bout his necessary busynes he saw an olde ashe broken by tempeste. And the mooste p'te thereof cloven downe and p'te thereof standyng and nere the mydell of the p'te of the ashe w'che was there standyng, there seamyd as it were the pycture of a crosse, and further sayeth thatt the pycture seamyd muyche fresher then it doth nowe. And further sayth thatt s'ten maydens of the towne of Cowbryge a bout that tyme bame unto the sayd p'ke to gaze upon the seyde pycture. And to all other poynts and articles he is ignoraunt. John Cantlow, Clerke, vicar of the paryshe of Saynt Donetts in the sayd countey, of thaige of lviii yeres, sworn & exa'ied upon all poynts and articles in the sayd hon'able l'res spied, deposyth and sayth thatt he nev' sayd any kynde of s'vice sens he became vicar of Saynt Donetts, but only accordyng to the quenes Ma't's p'ceedyngs, nor at any tyme before sethens the olde s'vice was abbolished. And further sayth thatt he was nev' in that paryshe of Saynt Donets untill

Michellm's laste paste, thatt he was enductyd vicar there, and further consernynge the pycture of the crosse, he sawe the same a bout Ester laste paste as he was walkynge in the p'ke wth the keper, w'ch is all thatt he can saye.

Miles Batten of Saynt Nicolas in the com' of Glamorgan gent, of thaige of xxxj^{ti} yeres or there a bouts, lykewyse sworne and exa'i'ed tochyng the contents of the sayd hon'able l'res in all poynts and articles, deposyth and sayth thatt he hard saye thatt a tre sholde be broken by tempeste in the p'ke of S'r Thomas Stradlynge knyght, the tyme s'ten he doth not well remember, and in the myddell of p'te of the tre w'ch was standynge there seamyd as yt were the pyctor of a crosse, and more he conat declare.

MYLES BU.....

Willyam Carne of Osmons Ashe in the com' of Glamorgan.....of thaige of xxxiiij^{ti} or there a bowts also sworn and exa'i'ed of his...knowleige in the p'miss declareth and sayth thatt a bouts a twelve monyth paste as he was a huntynge in the p'ke of S'r Thomas Stradlynge knight he saw an olde ashe kloven in the said p'ke, and in the mydell of the same pece w'ch was stonydng there seamyd the pycture of a lytell crosse ond further he conat depose.

WILL'M CARNE.

R. VAUGHAN,
EDWARD LEWYS.

STATE PAPERS (DOM.) ELIZ. VOL. LXVI, NO. 19, XII.

Glamorgan. S'r Tho. Stradling.—Maie hit pleas yo'r Lordshippes to und'stand that accordeinge unto com'aundm't by the Quenes Ma'ties most honorable l'res an youres geven: Wee the p'sons und'written have subscribed to the draughte of the l'res in the same inclosed. Further Robert Stradlinge and Edward Stradlinge esquire whoe some tyme have bin justices of peas of this countie of Glamo:gan, in the p'sence of us Robert Gamage, Thomas Carne and Will'm Jankin, have subscribed the same draughte as unto S'r Thomas Stradlinge knighte, whoe in like sorte hathe bene a justice of this countie, beinge at thi p'sent ympotent and unable to travell or to stirre oute of his bedd by reason of the gowte, hathe nott onely by mouthe to Thomas Carne esquier one of us, butt also by wrytinge answered us as here followethe, viz: First as towchinge the comynge to churche and hearinge of devine service and receavinge of the blessed Sacrament. He sayethe that when he is able to come out of his howse there is no laye man in thys shyre that comethe oftener to churche to heare devine service hen he doethe and also that he dothe yerelye receive the blessed Sacrament at tymes usuall, and sayethe that his hole famylie dothe the same, and thereof he wilbe tryed by all his neighboures and resorters to his p'ishe. And when he cannott come abroad yett hathe he devine service sayed in his chamber Sondayes, hollydayes, Wednisdaies and Fridayes, as it is sett furthe in the Booke of Com'one Prayer, butt subscribe the seid l're he sayethe he maye nott, for that the othe in effecte is comp'hended w'thin the same, the w'ch he cannott w'th sauf conscience take, as it is not unknowen to the Lordes of the Privey Counsaill. And for that cause he was prysoner in the Towre of a longe tyme, and when he was enlardged there hence the seid lordes would have had hym to enter into band for his good abearinge, butt he chose rather to remayne prysoner then he would soe doe, whereupon the seid lordes havinge compassion of his ympotencye

and aige w'th his conformitie in livinge, toke his onelye band by obligac'on of a thowsand marks for his appearaunce before them upon twelve dayes warninge the w'ch band remanyethe yett in force, the copie whereof wee doe send unto yo'r Lordshippes herew'th, and of that mynd concerninge his good abearinge he remayneth yett, but he trusteth that bothe the Lordes of the Privy Counsaill and yo'r lordshippes will consider that he beinge nowe of age above threescore and eleven and most oftentimes ympotent of hands and feete, that it is not requisite so to binde hym. And moreover he hopeth that his behavio'r from his childhoodd hytherunto may be a sufficient testimonye that it neadeth not whose conformytie in ev'rye poinete (as wee believe) to be trewe in forme by hym declared. Soe by credible report doe wee und'stand that he beinge in healthe fayleth not to observe the tymes of devine service in his p'she church w'th good devoc'on and reverence, and in all other things dothe afurther the Quenes Ma'ties p'ceedings to all his mighte as dothe manufestlye appere in gevinge of wyne to the p'ishes about hym in this skarsitie of wyne as ofte as neade dothe require the use thereof or the receavinge of the blessed Sacram't and suche like, whereof we thought it good tadvertize your Lordshippes. And thus we humblie take our leave this xxjth of December 1569.

Your Lordshippes to co'mand,

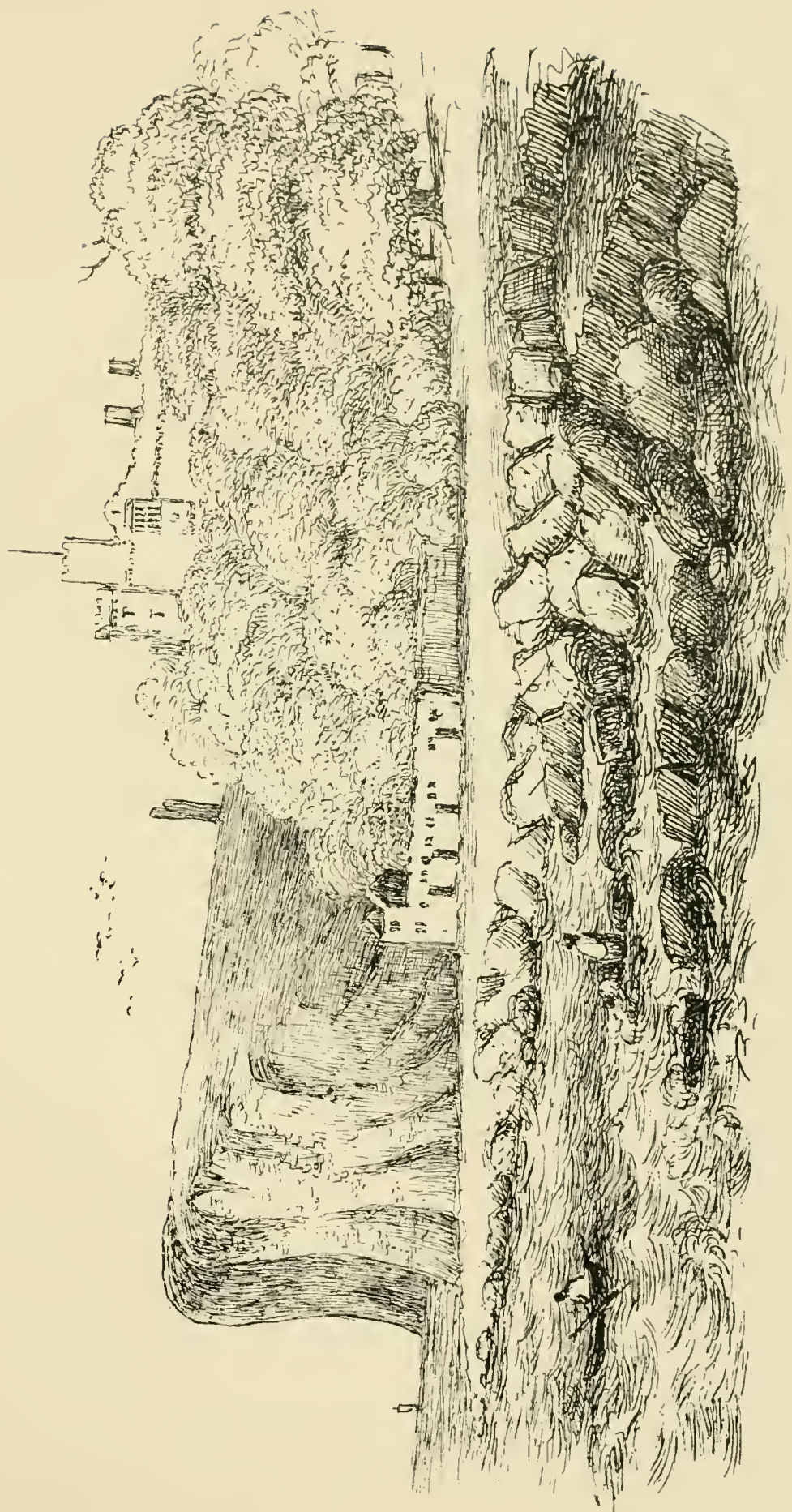
THOMAS CARNE
LEYSON PRICE
CHRISTOPHER TURBERVILL'

ROBERT GAMAGE
WILL'M JANKYN
EDWARD MANXELL.

To the Q. Ma'ts Counsaill in the Marches of Wales.

STATE PAPERS (DOM.) ELIZ. VOL. LXVI. No. 19, XIII.

This is a bail bond, by which Sir Thomas forfeits 1000 marks should he fail to appear before the Privy Council. Dated 15th October, 5 Eliz :



SIR EDWARD STRADLING, Knight, was educated at Oxford, and spent some time at Rome. Knighted 1575, Sheriff 1573, 1581, 1593. He built the sea wall at St. Donat's, and founded the library there. He died May 15th, 1609, at 80, and his will was proved in London 19th of October. He married Agnes, daughter to Sir Edward Gage, of Firle, who died 1624. They had no issue, and the estate was left to the heir male. Sir Edward or his successor sold Halsway. The curious collection of letters addressed to Sir Edward have already been mentioned.

SIR JOHN STRADLING, of St. Donat's, was son of Francis, son of Harry, second son of Thomas Stradling and Jenet Mathew. He was A.M. Oxon, 1582. Sheriff 1607 and 1620. Knighted 15th of May, 1608. He travelled on the continent, and was author of a volume of Latin Epigrams, "*Beati pacifici*" a poem, and "*Divine Poems.*" Created a Baronet 22nd of May, 1611. Died 1644. He married Elizabeth daughter of Edward Gage, of Firle, and had a large family, most of whom served King Charles by sea or by land, and one was Dean of Gloucester and Chichester, and was a zealous royalist divine.

SIR EDWARD STRADLING, Knight and Baronet, a Colonel in the King's army at Edgehill, M.P. for Glamorgan 1640, was buried June 1644, in Jesus College Chapel, Oxford. He was a promoter of Sir Hugh Middleton's New River company. He married Mary, only daughter of Sir Thomas Mansel, of Margam, and had several children, of whom Edward succeeded, and John, a Major General, was taken prisoner at the Battle of St. Fagan's in 1648.

SIR EDWARD STRADLING, the next Baronet, was in arms for Charles, and died at Oxford. He married Katherine, daughter of Sir Hugh Perry. She afterwards married Bussey Mansel, of Britton Ferry. Their son was SIR

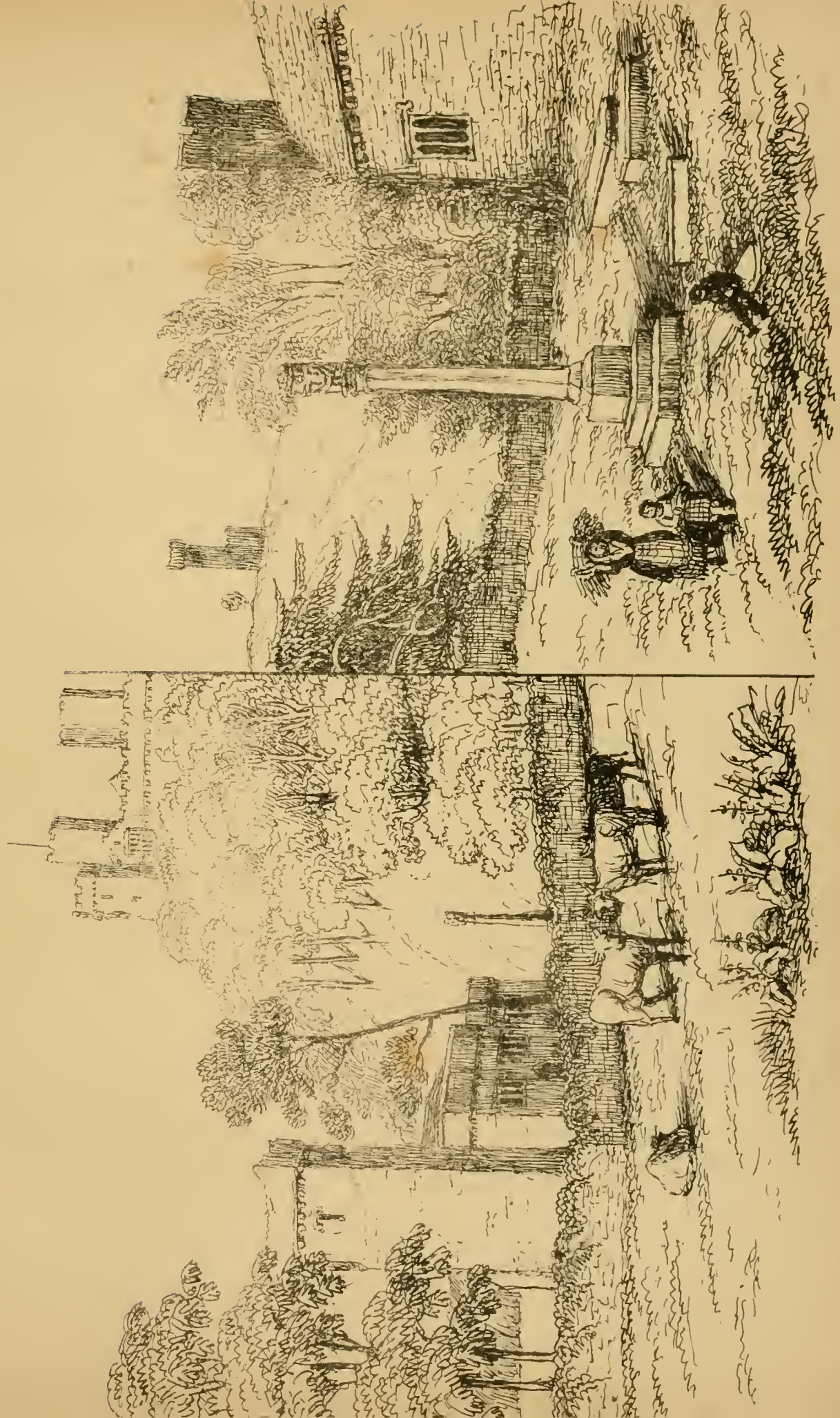
EDWARD STRADLING, Bart., Knighted by Charles I., M. P. for Cardiff, 1698 and 1726. He married Elizabeth daughter of Anthony Hungerford, of Black Bourton, their sons were Edward, Thomas, and others.

SIR EDWARD 5th Baronet, Sheriff 1710, M.P. for Cardiff 1714 and 1722. Died 5th of April 1735, will dated 9th February, 1713-14, proved 31st of May 1735. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Edward Mansel, of Margam, Bart. Their children all died young, and childless, and the succession came to Sir Edward's brother.

SIR THOMAS, 6th Bart., born June 5th, 1710, and died unmarried at Montpellier, 27th of April, 1738, aged 28. Will dated May 4th, 1735, and with him the direct line became extinct.

Bussey Mansel, 4th Lord Mansel, held the estates for life, but on his death they became the subject of a long law suit, the general result of which was their division into four parts, of which (1) St. Donat's and Sully came to Sir John Tyrrwhit, Bart., who was Sheriff of Glamorgan, 1760, (2) Merthyr Mawr and Monk-nash, came to Hugh Bowen and his son George, (3) Penllyne, Llampha and Comb-Hawey, came to Louisa Barbara Mansel, daughter and heir of Lord Mansel, and wife of George Venable Vernon. (4) St. Athans was sold to pay the legal expenses.

In 1756, an abstract of the Stradling title was drawn up, whence it appears that at the time of the break up of the family, they held the Castles of St. Donat's, Sully, East Orchard, Penllyne; the Manors of St. Donat's, Sully, Nash, East Orchard, Merthyr-Mawr, West Orchard, Castleton, Court Llanphepy,



Gileston, Merthyr-Mawr parva, Penllyne, Coston and Llangan, the patronage of the Churches of Sully, St. Athan, Langan, Merthyr-Mawr, and Monk-nash, and the Advowson of the Vicarage and Rectory of St. Donat's, with tithe there and in St. Donat's, Marcross, St. Bride's and Nash.

G. T. CLARK.

Dowlais,

Dec. 1870.



DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS.

No. I.—A general view of the Castle from the N.W. taken in 1740. Reduced from Buck.

No. II.—View down the Castle ravine over a part of the old park, shewing the Castle, Church, and Watch Tower, with the sea.

No. III.—The Main Entrance and Gate-house, within which are the early English details represented in drawing IXA.

No. IV.—The view of the same from the Entrance Court; and the inner Gate-house from the same Court. Over the Archways here and elsewhere, are terra cotta medallions of Roman Emperors, similar to those at Stirling Castle and Hampton Court. These are probably due to Sir Edward Stradling, who died *æt.* 80, in 1609. "He was much at Rome," says David Rhys, in the *Athenæ Oxonienses*, "expended large sums at St. Donat's, on the sea wall, and was at the charge of such Herculean works for the public good, that no man in his time went before him."

No. V.—The inner Gate-house and contiguous buildings from the Great Court.

No. VI.—The Great Court, shewing the Hall porch and the bay window of the State Rooms.

No. VII.—The Great Hall, from the east or entrance end. From a sketch by Edward Blore, Esq.

No. VIII.—The exterior from the Garden Terrace; thought to include parts of the older building.

No. IX.—Bay Window of the State Apartments, from the western or lesser terrace.

No. IXA.—Interior of the same, shewing the panelling. Below is the fire place and other early English work within the outer Gate-house.

No. X.—The Seaward front of the Castle from a lower terrace of the garden.

No. XI.—General view of the Castle and the Sea Wall, from the Beach. The 'Barracks' occupy the fore ground.

No. XII.—The Castle from the Church-yard, and a nearer view of the Cross.

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